

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1 1. (Previously presented) A computer implemented method for fulfilling at least one
2 need comprising:
3 receiving at least one request for a product or service;
4 identifying, using a computer or network, a plurality of markets that are capable of
5 fulfilling said at least one request, said identifying step being performed by using said
6 computer or network to search a market database either stored in a storage device
7 associated with said computer or network or which can be accessed electronically by said
8 computer or network to determine equivalent products or services or combinations of
9 products or services to said product or service of said at least one request and which
10 would fulfill any requirements of said at least one request, whereby a plurality of markets
11 that are capable of fulfilling said at least one request is identified from said product or
12 service of said at least one request and said equivalent products or services or
13 combinations of products or services determined using said computer or network;
14 requesting at least one offer to fulfill said at least one request from at least one
15 entity within said identified markets; and
16 communicating at least a portion of offers received in response to said requesting
17 step to a party making the at least one request.

1 2. Canceled.

1 3. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 1, further
2 comprising facilitating a transaction between said party making the request and at least
3 one of said at least one entity within said plurality of markets identified in said
4 identifying step.

1 4. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 3 wherein the
2 identity of said party making the request is withheld for a period of time from said at least
3 one entity within said plurality of markets identified in said identifying step.

1 5. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein said
2 offers are made through at least one of
3 an open auction;
4 a sealed auction;
5 a series of negotiations; and
6 a posting of a price.

1 6-8. Canceled.

1 9. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein said
2 offers are offers for exchange of goods or services.

1 10. Canceled..

1 11. (Previously presented) The computer implemented method of claim 1 wherein said
2 communication of at least a portion of said offers includes at least one of
3 an offered price;
4 a description in terms of quality of what is being offered;
5 a description sufficient to identify what is being offered;
6 a description in terms of reliability of said at least one entity within said plurality
7 of markets identified in said identifying step; and
8 a solution to fulfillment of said request.

1 12-15. Canceled.

1 16. (Previously presented). A data processing system for fulfilling at least one need
2 comprising:
3 means for receiving at least one request for a product or service;
4 means for identifying a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at
5 least one request, said means for identifying functioning by performing a computerized
6 search of a market database either stored in a storage device associated with a computer
7 that is a part of said means for identifying or which can be accessed electronically by said
8 computer, and using said computerized search to determine equivalent products or
9 services or combinations of products or services to said product or service of said at least
10 one request and which would fulfill any requirements of said at least one request,
11 whereby said means for identifying identifies a plurality of markets that are capable of
12 fulfilling said at least one request from said product or service of said at least one request
13 and said equivalent products or services or combinations of products or services
14 determined using said computerized search;
15 means for requesting at least one offer to fulfill said at least one request from
16 entities within identified markets identified by said means for identifying; and
17 means for communicating at least a portion of offers received in response to a
18 request made by said means for requesting to a party making the at least one request.

1 17. Canceled.

1 18. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 16, further comprising
2 means for facilitating a transaction between said party making the request and at least one
3 of said at least one entity within said identified markets.

1 19. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 18 further comprising
2 means for withholding the identity of said party making the request for a period of time
3 from said at least one entity within said identified markets.

1 20-30. Canceled.

1 31. (Previously presented) A data processing system for need fulfillment optimization
2 comprising:

3 a memory for storing data comprising market profiles; and

4 a central processing unit coupled to said memory, said central processing unit
5 being capable of:

6 receiving at least one request for a product or service;

7 identifying a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at least
8 one request, said identifying being performed by using said central processing unit to
9 search said market profiles in said memory to determine equivalent products or services
10 or combinations of products or services to said product or service of said at least one
11 request and which would fulfill any requirements of said at least one request, whereby a
12 plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at least one request is identified from
13 said product or service of said at least one request and said equivalent products or
14 services or combinations of products or services determined using said central processing
15 unit;

16 requesting at least one offer to fulfill said at least one request from at least
17 one entity within identified markets identified by said central processing unit; and

18 communicating at least a portion of offers received in response to a request
19 made by said central processing unit to a party making the at least one request.

1 32. Canceled.

1 33. (Previously presented) The data processing system for need fulfillment optimization
2 of claim 31, wherein said processing unit is further capable of facilitating a transaction
3 between said party making the at least one request and at least one of said at least one
4 entity within said identified markets.

1 34. (Previously presented) The data processing system for need fulfillment optimization
2 of claim 33 wherein said processing unit is further capable of withholding the identity of

3 said party making the request for a period of time from said at least one entity within said
4 identified markets.

35-45. Canceled.

1 46. (Currently amended) A machine readable medium containing a computer program
2 for fulfilling at least one need comprising:

3 code to be executed by a processor for receiving at least one request for a product
4 or service;

5 code to be executed by a processor for identifying a plurality of markets that are
6 capable of fulfilling said at least one request, said code for identifying providing
7 instructions for a computer or network to search a market database either stored in a
8 storage device associated with said computer or network or which can be accessed
9 electronically by said computer or network to determine equivalent products or services
10 or combinations of products or services to said product or service of said at least one
11 request and which would fulfill any requirements of said at least one request, whereby a
12 plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at least one request is identified
13 from said product or service of said at least one request and said equivalent products or
14 services or combinations of products or services determined using said computer or
15 network;

16 code to be executed by a processor for requesting at least one offer to fulfill said at
17 least one request from at least one entity within identified markets identified using said
18 code for identifying; and

19 code to be executed by a processor for communicating at least a portion of offers
20 received in response to a request made using said code for requesting to a party making
21 the at least one request.

47. Canceled.

1 48. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium containing a computer program
2 of claim 46, further comprising code to be executed by a processor for facilitating a
3 transaction between said party making the request and at least one of said at least one
4 entity within said identified markets.

1 49. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium containing a computer program
2 of claim 48 further comprising code to be executed by a processor for withholding the
3 identity of said party making the request for a period of time from said at least one entity
4 within said identified markets.

1 50. (Previously presented) The machine readable medium containing a computer
2 program of claim 46 wherein said offers are made through at least one of
3 an open auction,
4 a sealed auction,
5 a series of negotiations,
6 a posting of a price.

1 51-53. Canceled.

1 54. (Previously presented) The machine readable medium containing a computer
2 program of claim 46 wherein said offers are offers for exchange of goods or services.

1 55. (Previously presented) The machine readable medium containing a computer
2 program of claim 46 wherein said communication of at least a portion of said offers
3 includes at least one of
4 an offered price;
5 a description in terms of quality of what is being offered
6 a description sufficient to identify what is being offered;
7 a description in terms of reliability of said at least one entity within said plurality
8 of markets identified in said identifying step; and

9 a solution to fulfillment of said request.

56-59. Canceled.

1 60. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium containing a computer program
2 of claim 46 further comprising code executed by a processor for said identification to be
3 accomplished in part by processing data from a market database.